

I am a resident of Maine and I am very angry and disappointed that this has been allowed to happen. I have found WGME 13 in Portland to have changed drastically since it was taken over by Sinclair even before the "Stolen Hours" incident became an issue. Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation. This station no longer feels balanced and non-partisan. It no longer reflects our Maine values. It comes across as very cold and mean spirited!

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.